

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAI-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /091 W

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R 171136Z AUG 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3497

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORC, PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQ AND COLOMBO SUMMIT

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1129, (B) BAGHDAD 1109 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: APPARENTLY CONFLICTS WITHIN THE BAATH PARTY HAVE LED
S

DAM HUSSEIN TO CANCEL HIS TRIP TO COLOMBO. AN INCREASE IN
ANTI-WESTERN ACCUSATIONS IN THE PRESS MAY WELL SIGNAL IRAQ'S
ADOPTION OF MORE RADICAL POSITIONS AT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: LOCAL MEDIA HAVE SO FAR EMPHASIZED
FOLLOWING IRAQI PROPOSALS AS MAJOR IRAQI ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT
SUMMIT:

A. AS RESULT OF IRAQI INITIATIVE, FOR FIRST TIME TWENTY ARAB

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COUNTRIES HAVE UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED A "UNIFIED ARAB ATTITUDE"

AND AGREED UPON ONE "UNIFIED DRAFT RESOLUTION" FOR A MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED STATES.

B. ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AN IRAQI DRAFT PROPOSAL, BASED ON DECLARATION THAT EMERGED FROM RECENT NACC MEETING IN ALGIERS, ON SITUATION IN LEBANON.

C. IN AN ATTEMPT TO "PRESERVE THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE" OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, IRAQ HAS FORMULATED CLEAR "THEREFORE EXCLUSIVE RATHER THAN INCLUSIVE) CRITERIA CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN MOVEMENT. FONMIN HAMMADI HAS AGAIN ARGUED THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO ALLOW ANY COUNTRY WHICH BELONGS TO A MILITARY ALLIANCE TO JOIN MOVEMENT. TO DO SO WOULD BOTH WEAKEN THE MOVEMENT AND SET SERIOUS PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE.

D. IRAQ HAS BEEN ELECTED GENERAL RAPPOREUR FOR CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ISMET KETTANEH (SEE REFS) WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FUNCTION.

E. IRAQI DELEGATION HAS PRESENTED A DRAFT ECONOMIC DECALRATION TO ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN NON-ALIGNED.

F. IRAQ HAS PROPOSED A POLITICAL DECLARATION WHICH WOULD STRONGLY CONDEMN "THE RECENT POLICY STATEMENT BY THE USG CONTAINING SERIOUS THREATS AND DIRECT PRESSURES AGAINST THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: SADDAM HUSSEIN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF IRAQI'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL, MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT DISSENION IN THE BAATH PARTY CONCERNING A NUMBER OF ISSUES REQUIRES HIS PRESENCE IN BAGHDAD. ALTHOUGH THE GOI (THROUGH FIGUREHEAD KURDISH V-P TAHA MUHIEDDIN MAAROUF'S CONSULTATIONS WITH TITO AND OTHERS AND THE NUMEROUS IRAQI PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AT THE SUMMIT) IS MAKING A VALIANT EFFORT TO PLAY AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE, THE IRAQI EFFORT CLEARLY SUFFERS FROM SADDAM'S ABSENCE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE PRESS CONTINUES TO LAUD AND DESCRIBE IN GREAT DETAIL IRAQ'S ROLE IN PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND IN DRAWING UP AGENDA FOR NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO, MEDIA ATTENTION NOW APPEARS SHIFTING TO MORE RADICAL THEMES THAN WAS THE CASE DURING PROCEEDING TWO WEEKS. ARTICLES NOW STRESS NECESSITY FOR SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS TO STRUGGLE AGAINST NEO-COLONIALISM (LED BY UNITED STATES) AND REVIEW HISTORY OF BAATH PARTY CRED-
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ENTIALS AS LONG TIME FOE OF IMPERIALISM, AGGRESSION, AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. APPARENT SURFACING IN PAST TWO WEEKS OF DISSENSION IN THE PARTY MAY BE BEHIND OBVIOUS CHANGE IN TONE OF MEDIA'S TREATMENT OF SUMMIT. TWO WEEKS AGO IRAQ WAS ALL FOR SWEET REASON AND COMPROMISE. NOW THE DRUMS ARE BEATING AGAINST THE OLD BOGEYMAN OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM AND ITS NEW CATSPAW: SYRIA'S ASSAD REGIME WHICH IRAQ SAYS HAS NO CLAIM TO NON-ALIGNED CREDITIALS. WHETHER HITHERTO PRAGMATIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO COLOMBO

SUMMIT IS, IN FACT, PROCEEDING DESPITE THE SWITCH IN PRESS COVERAGE REMAINS TO BE SEEN FROM EVENTS AT SUMMIT ITSELF.

5. WE ARE NOT SURE WHY SADDAM DID NOT GO TO THE SUMMIT. IT IS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT HE PLANNED TO GO AS RECENTLY AS LATE JULY. ON THEORY HAS IT THAT TAHA AL-JEZRAQI, FORMER BAATH PARTY MILITIA, IS RESISTING SADDAM'S ATTEMPT TO CONSOLIDATE HIS DOMESTIC POWER BASE. ANOTHER THOUGHT IS THAT SADDAM BELIEVES THE ASSAD REGIME IN SYRIAN IS OFF BALANCE OVER ITS LEBANON POLICY AND CONSEQUENTLY VULNERABLE. (ASSAD APPEARS NOT TO SHARE THIS VIEW SINCE HE HAS GONE TO COLOMBO.) VICE PRESIDENT MAAROUF, WHO NOW HEADS THE IRAQI DELEGATION, WAS A CAREER DIPLOMAT AND IS ESSENTIALLY AN APOLITICAL, ACCURATE AND RELIABLE REPORTER OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS. IF THE RUMORS OF A SERIOUS RIFT AMONG THE MODERATE AND EXTREME BAATHIS ARE CORRECT, MAAROUF'S SELECTION TO HEAD THE IRAQI DELEGATION MIGHT SERVE TO PAPER OVER THE RIFT AS HE IS DECIDEDLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: WE CANNOT IDENTIFY RECENT USG POLICY STATEMENT ON NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT MENTIONED PARA 2, F ABOVE. CAN YOU ENLIGHTEN US AS TO WHAT IRAQIS HAVE IN MIND?
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